THE EXCAVATION OF A MESOLITHIC SITE AT GERRARDS CROSS, BUCKS.

L. H. BARFIELD

In 1966 and 1967 a number of areas of archaeological interest were investigated by the writer in the Misbourne valley at Gerrards Cross, along the line of the new road by-passing Chalfont St. Peter (fig. 1).

Four of these sites, I to IV, were found as a result of the digging of drainage ditches and the removal of topsoil in preparation for the new road. Site V, not directly on the line of the road, was identified from surface finds in a ploughed field.

SITE I (Grid Ref. TQ 011884) (fig. 2)

Site I lies in the flat valley bottom about 100 m. distant from the present course of the River Misbourne. Here during the summer of 1966 the writer noticed an undisturbed layer of flint flakes in the side of a trench dug for the main drainage of the by-pass road, where it crosses a field immediately south of Oakend Cottage. From the section it was apparent that the scatter of flints would extend under both the line of the road way and the bordering field.

Two excavations were later carried out. The first was for a week at the end of December 1966 and the beginning of January 1967 on the line of the planned road, when squares A to J were excavated. In the summer of 1967, after work on the road had been started, a further fourteen square metres, squares K–Z, were excavated along the edge of the road and in the nearby field to the east. The two areas were separated by the line of the main drainage ditch and the road ditch (fig. 3).

The excavations were carried out primarily to recover enough material to establish the cultural affinities of the assemblage and also to define limits of the site.

The excavations were throughout hampered by the lack of surface area available for excavation since the road construction prohibited continued excavation of the area to the west of the drainage ditches, and the field to the east of the road fence was only accessible for a short period of time. At the end of the excavation the narrow strip of ground between the ditches and the road fence was the only part of the site left available for excavation.[1]

The subsoil on which the Mesolithic debris was lying consisted of a complex series of flint rich gravels and fluviatile silts and clays (fig. 4, and Appendix I). To the west the flint scatter lay directly on a compact gravel surface which extended under squares H, G and J, and into the west side of squares A, B, C, D. A gravel ridge was also located in X, Y and Z. Over most of the area to the east, towards the river, the subsoil was of grey fluviatile clay. In places, as in F and E on the edge of the gravel, this clay was mixed with sand and pebbles. In M and L a gravel deposit appears to have been lying over fluviatile silts.

1. Squares Q and R could not be completely excavated. This fact must be taken into consideration when considering the frequency of finds shown on the plans.

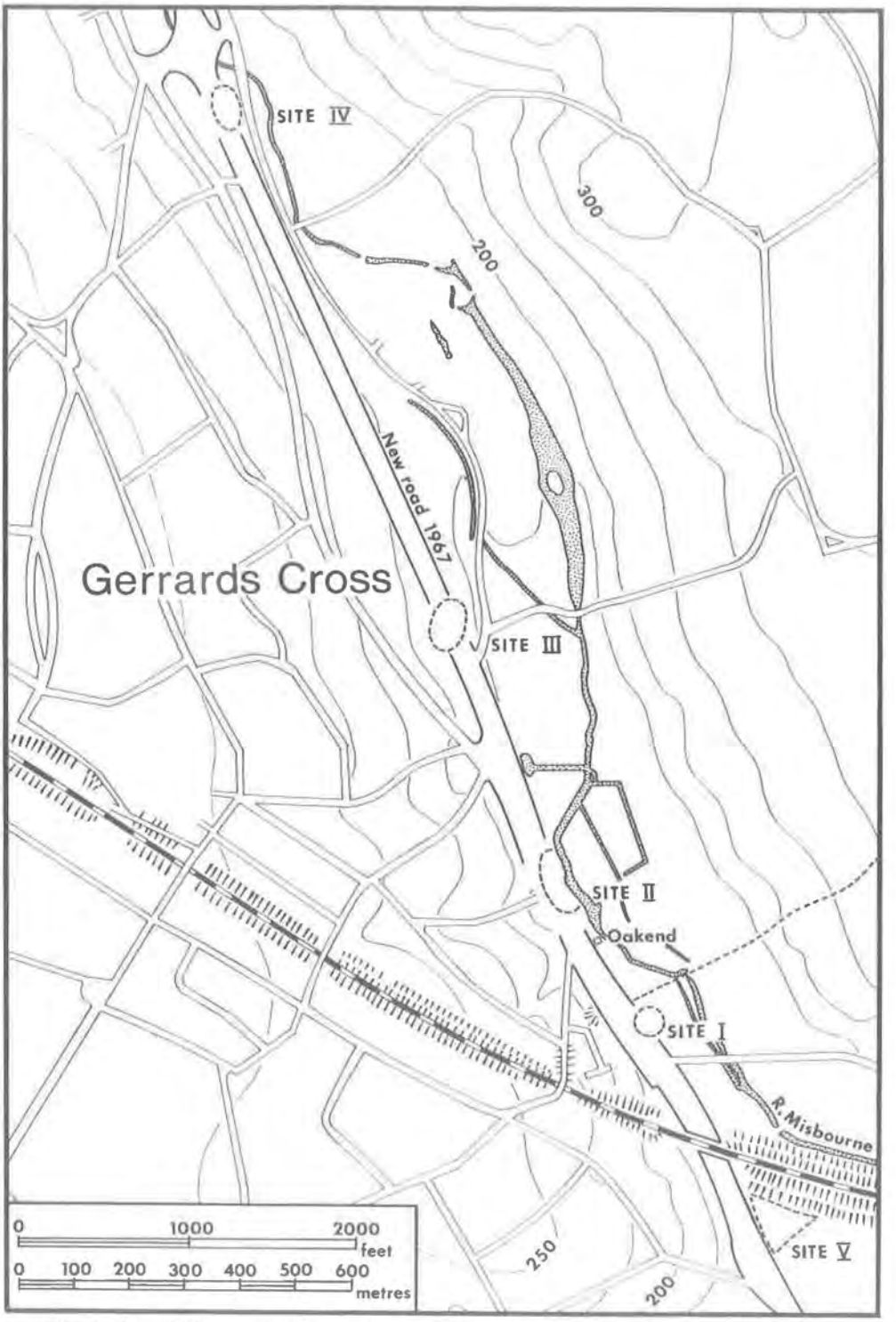

Fig. 1. The Misbourne Valley at Gerrards Cross. Archaeological sites investigated in 1966 – 67.

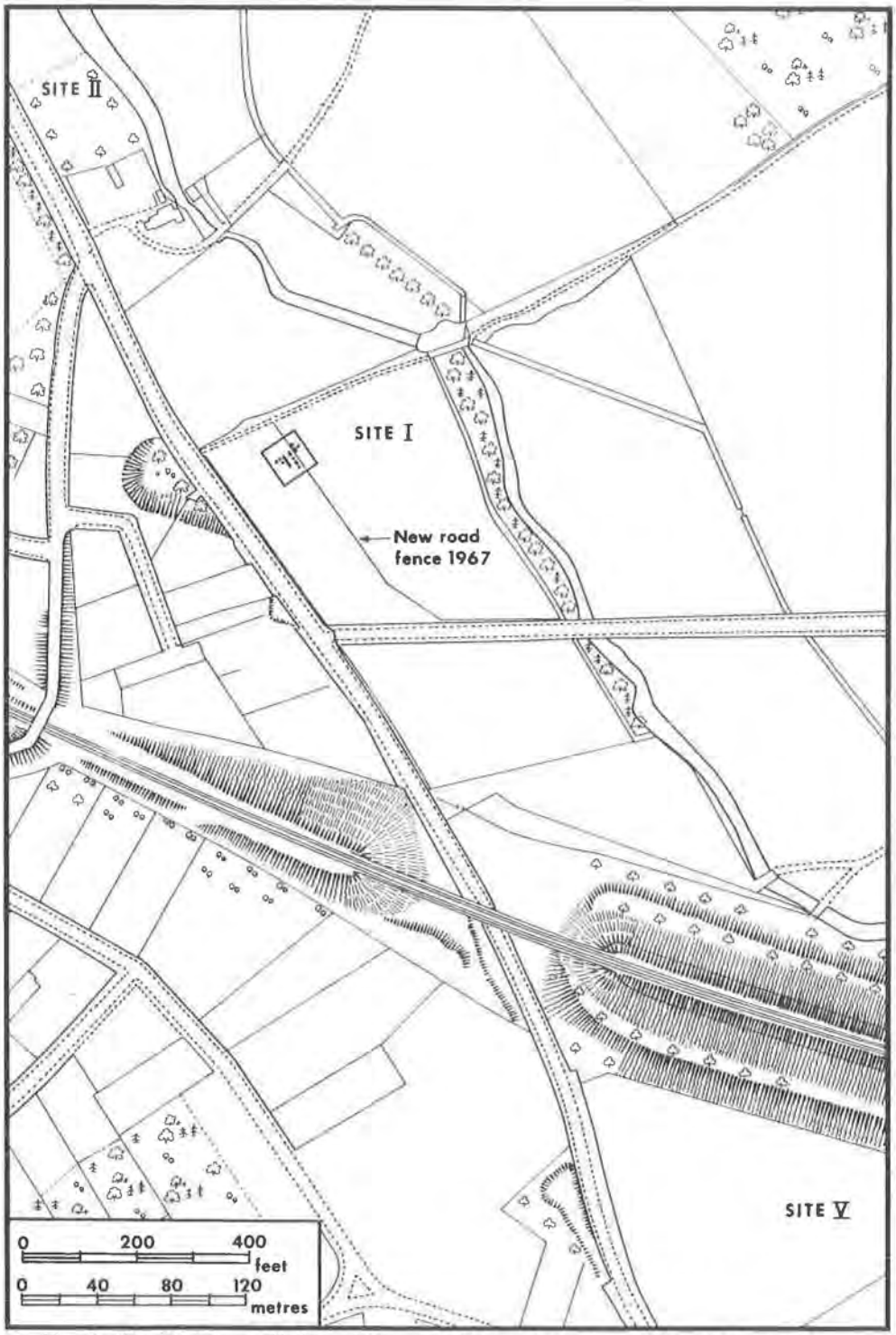

Fig. 2. The Misbourne Valley at Gerrards Cross. Location of Sites I, II, and V.

The clay deposits certainly represent river deposits which ante-date the Mesolithic settlement. In square K a sounding was sunk into the clay which revealed that it lay on a granular river silt which, in turn, was above a coarse gravel deposit.

In A, B and C the eastern edge of the gravel formed a steep slope, down which the archaeological deposit dipped, while the gravel deposit was bounded to the north and south by sandy clay which was separated from it by small gullies. Flint flakes were found in all the squares excavated but it was clearly noticeable that the maximum concentration of finds was located on the margins between the gravel and the clay. The highest number of flint flakes were recorded in squares Y (237 flakes); the lowest in J (18 flakes) (fig. 6). Although for the most part the flakes were lying in a horizon directly on the deposits described above, they were also found in marked concentrations incorporated in the bottom of the overlying layers.

The deposit directly covering the Mesolithic working floor over the whole site was a grey calcareous loam (layer 5) whose lowest levels frequently contained large concentrations of waste flakes (fig. 5). In squares D, E and F the flints were incorporated in a layer of loam and gravel, which perhaps represented erosion from the gravel bank. Closely associated with this grey loam layer was a deposit of white tufa granules. In places this tufa was mixed all through the loam down to the surface of the subsoil, but in other areas it formed a distinct upper layer, well above the layer of the Mesolithic floor.

Stratified above the loam and tufa deposit layers in square S, T, U, V, W, X and Y was a compact layer of flint nodules which for the most part was only one nodule thick (layer 4). This lay at a depth of between 42 and 48 cm. below the ground surface and embedded in its surface were sherds and waste flakes. Although this stone surface gave the impression of being an artificial floor surface, it is probable that it was naturally deposited through worm action.

Above the stone pavement lay another deposit of grey loam (Layer 3) which contained few finds.

The pavement in turn, was covered by a c.15 to 20 cm. thick layer of brown soil, (layer 2) whose interface with 3 was clearly defined.

The surface of layer 2 contained an abundance of fine chalk particles derived from cultivation as well as gravel and a few tiles.

Finally, the uppermost level was the plough soil, similar in composition to layer 2.

DATING OF THE DEPOSITS

No evidence was found for dating the fluviatile deposits below horizon with flint debris. The floor itself presumably dates to the Boreal or Pre-boreal period on evidence of the associated Mesolithic industry. Layer 5, containing Bronze or Iron Age pottery, can be attributed to the late prehistoric period. The formation of the nodule floor, layer 4, may represent a considerable time span, perhaps in post-Roman times, when the area was not under plough and worm action carried Prehistoric and Roman sherds, as well as stones, down to this level. Layers 1 and 2 can be associated with more recent agricultural activity in the valley.

THE MESOLITHIC FLINT INDUSTRY FROM SITE I

Material

The raw material used on Site I was predominantly a black to grey flint with varying gradations of rich brown patination acquired after its deposition in the ground.

Large undamaged nodules are present in the gravel subsoil and it is probable that the flint used was extracted directly from gravel underlying the site. The cortex of the struck and broken flints was in fact very similar to that of the undisturbed flint nodules.

Waste Products

The distribution of waste flint has been used to define the concentrations of activity on the site in figs. 6, 7 and 8. These plans show how the maximum density closely follows the edge of the gravel deposit.

Waste products comprise 1857 waste flakes with striking platforms and bulbs of percussion, as well as 1203 pieces of shattered flint which bear no signs of percussion fractures.

The fragments of shattered flint with no visible percussion fractures were present in the ratio of about 2:3 to the struck flakes. The ratio of shattered flint to struck flakes varies across the site and they appear to be in a higher ratio in the more southerly grid squares than in the northerly. Shattered flint fragments occur in their lowest percentages of the combined totals of shattered and struck flakes in squares Q and N, where they comprise 15% and 17% of the total respectively, whereas the highest percentages are to be found in squares C and H, where they attain 58% and 55% respectively. The fact that their density and distribution per square metre (fig. 8) corresponds very closely to that of the struck flakes, suggests that they represent the residue of flint working just as much as do the struck flakes. They can perhaps be regarded as the debris from the smashing of the frost fractured outer surfaces of nodules in order to reach the undamaged interior.

288 flakes, 15.5% of the total number of waste flakes, showed evidence of burning. The distribution of these burnt flakes expressed as a percentage of the total number of struck flakes is illustrated in fig. 9. There is a relatively uniform distribution over the site but the higher concentrations in squares Y and X might suggest the presence of a hearth in this area.[2]

The 1857 flakes are characterised by predominantly broad flakes (fig. 11). Blades or blade-like flakes, having a length twice their breadth, represent only 6.6%.[3]. The histograms in fig. 10 show that the preferred width was between 2 and 3 cm. and length between 3 and 4 cm. 58.2% of the flakes show part of the original cortex.[4]

Many of the flakes bear a pattern of flake scars which suggests that they were removed from the surface of axes or axe roughouts.

Only 55 pieces could be regarded as fine blades with straight parallel sides (fig. 12, F1-F2). These represent only 2.9% of the total assemblage.

Cores and core flakes (fig. 12)

Of twenty-seven cores only one was a blade core, found in a surface level, (F3). The other twenty-six were irregular and very rough in character (F4-F5). Seven had one platform; twelve, two platforms and five, three platforms. The presence of characteristically Mesolithic bipolar cores is worth noting (F4-F5).

2.The high concentrations in N and Q may not be significant as the total sample was small.

3.This figure was estimated from a sample of 600 flakes.

4.In the scatter diagrams in this article the length measurement has been put on the vertical axis and the breadth on the horizontal. In this I follow the practice in use on the continent e.g. Bagolini 1968, 1971, Andersen 1967 rather than that suggested recently by Froom 1973, where the axes are reversed.

Several flakes can be interpreted as keeled flakes (F6).

Axe sharpening flakes (4) (Figs. 12, 13)

Four flakes could be definitely identified as tranchet sharpening flakes from the cutting edge of a core-axe or adze (F7-F10). Two of these show the scar of a previous sharpening flake on their upper surface (F4-F10) while the others appear to be from the initial sharpening of the axe or adze (F7–F8).

Microliths (3) (Fig. 13)

Only three microliths were represented, none of them of very fine workmanship. They comprise two obliquely retouched points (F11, F12) and a roughly truncated blade (F13).

Retouched Blade (1) (Fig. 13)

A blade with irregular unilateral retouch) (F14).

Burin (1) (Fig. 13)

A rough burin made on a cortex flake with burin spall detached from a short length of retouch (F15).

Awls (4) (Fig. 13)

Four awl points of varying sizes, one is on a small blade with finely retouched awl tip (F16). The others are on much larger flakes with roughly worked awl-like projections (F17).

Endscraper (1) (Fig. 13)

A single blade had partial retouch at its distal end suggesting an end-scraper (F18).

Flake scrapers (18) (Figs. 13, 14)

The largest tool category was made up of rough flake scrapers. Indeed many are so rough that it was not possible to be certain that they are all intentional artifacts. Several have a distinctly rounded shape (F19, F21), others have a very denticulated edges (F23, F24).

Flakes with marginal retouch (12) (Fig. 14)

Again this is a group of extremely rough artifacts and distinction between these and the previous category is somewhat arbitrary (F25–28).

Blade-like flakes with utilisation (13)

Thirteen blade-like flakes with marginal abrasions can be regarded as utilised flakes.

Core axes (2) (Fig. 15)

Two broken core axes or adzes were recovered (F29, F30) as well as two crudely shaped cores, which may be rough-outs for axes. F30 had been re-used as a blade core.

Discussion of the flint industry

The total industry can be summarised as follows:–

Shattered fragments of flint	1203
Waste flakes and blades	1859
Axe sharpening flakes	4
Cores	27
Microliths	3
Retouched blade	1
Burin	1
Awls	4
Endscraper	1
Flakescrapers	18
Flakes with marginal retouch	12
Utilised blades	13
Core axes	2

The distribution of the principal artifact types (fig. 17) shows a rough correlation between artifact density and waste product distribution. The only significant clustering may be the axe rough-outs and axe sharpening flakes on the western part of the site.

The presence of core axes or adzes together with obliquely retouched points suggests a connection with the Early Mesolithic or Broad Blade tradition of the British Mesolithic. In many respects, however, the rest of the assemblage is dissimilar from that from other sites of this period in Britain.

The paucity of well made tool types on blades and the general poor quality of the industry is notable, as is the low percentage of blade-like flakes among the total number of waste flakes. Blade-like flakes make up only 6.6% of the total industry compared with 14.3% at the Broad-blade site of Thatcham, higher up the Thames Valley (Wymer 1962). Closer at hand, sites like Boyers Pit (Denham) are characterised by their fine flakes and blades which outnumber other waste products (Lacaille 1963). At Hamper Mill, on the Colne near Watford, the percentage is about 29% (Derricourt and Jacobi 1973), while at Bolters End (High Wycombe) blades form 72% of the assemblage (Millard 1961–65).[5]

Finished artifacts (not including utilised blades) make up only 2.1% of the total assemblage, which is a smaller proportion than at Star Carr, where tools represent up to 7.2% of the total assemblage, and even smaller than at Thatcham, where they are 3.5% of the total.

The high proportion of very rough scraping tools is also notable. At Thatcham only eight out of a total of a hundred and thirty-two scrapers were classified in this category.

Perhaps a clue to the reason for these differences is provided by the relatively large proportion of axes and axe debris and broad flakes contrasted with the virtual absence of microliths and blades from the site.[6] This might lead us to the conclusion that the site

5.Millard compared this assemblage with the Horsham culture.

6.At nearby sites like Sandstone (Iver) (Lacaille 1963), although microliths are well represented, there were no axe sharpening flakes and only one axe.

was primarily concerned with the production of core axes and may be regarded as an axe factory with raw material quarried in situ. Specialization of production of this sort is rare on other Mesolithic sites in Britain although it might be compared with later specialized axe production during the Neolithic.[7]

The Thames Valley contains the greatest concentration of Early Mesolithic sites in Britain. Wymer (1962) and Lacaille (1966) have discussed the characteristic distribution pattern of Maglemosian sites along the Thames showing that they are for the most part concentrated along the tributaries of the Thames rather than on the main river itself. Wymer suggests that this distribution pattern may be due to the more favourable circumstances of preservation away from the main river than a reflection of the actual distribution pattern (Wymer 1962).

The Gerrards Cross site is one of a number of Mesolithic sites on the Colne and its tributaries and Lacaille (1963) has provided us with the fullest discussion of these sites. Boyers Pit (Denham) and Sandstone (Iver) offer us close parallel as regard stratigraphy, although in other respects the industries differ. Branigan (1966) has brought the picture further up to date.

Later Pottery from Site I

45 Prehistoric, 10 Roman and 9 Medieval pot sherds were found in the course of the excavation, in addition to 12 sherds which could be either Medieval or Roman.

The distribution of these throughout the deposit was as follows.

Layer	Prehistoric	Roman	Medieval	Roman or Medieval
1			3	1
2			3	3
3	3	2	2	5
3/4	9			1
4	16	8	1	2
5	17			
6				

From this we can see that layer 5 was contemporary with the use of prehistoric pottery and indeed sherds were found right down to the bottom of this layer in contact with the Mesolithic floor. The flint nodule horizon (4) contained sherds of all periods well embedded in its surface, which seems to confirm the interpretation that this is a worm deposited layer. Medieval sherds only are found in the upper two layers.

The distribution of pottery sherds per square metre (fig. 18) does not reveal any very significant patterning although the Roman sherds are mostly in the north eastern part of the excavation.

7.A site at Sproughton near Ipswich has produced evidence of a Mesolithic assemblage characterised by large flakes apparently derived from flint mining. Evidence of mining of flint from gravel is also recorded from Bishops Waltham, Herts, (*Current Archaeology 1968*).

Prehistoric Pottery (fig. 16)

The forty-five prehistoric sherds came principally from layers 4 and 5 and even though a number of different wares are presented it seems probable that all belong to one period of occupation. The sherds were mostly very small, featureless and variable in fabric.

Well in evidence is a black ware with either a quartz sand or crushed-flint filler and a well burnished surface. Larger fragments of this ware show a mottled firing which ranges from black to brown. Sherds of pottery with brown, burnished surface and much white filler (? flint) are also represented, as well as thicker sherds with similar filler but with a matt surface. A distinct group is represented by three sherds of a well fired sandy. texture with light brown to buff surfaces and black centre (e.g. P4). The following were the only sherds with other significant features.

P1 Bowl of burnished ware with a light brown and black mottled surface and dark brown centre. Poorly fired and mixed with copious filler of sand and crushed white stone (flint?).

The form is that of a thick walled bowl with an open rounded profile; the flattened incurving rim is slightly thickened on the inside. Its surface is decorated just below the rim with a broad undulating incised line. One one fragment there is the suggestion that this line may be double. From Q4.

P2 Sherd of black ware with light red matt surface. No visible filler. The fragment is from a bowl with an incurving rim. Internal decoration (?) consisting of an impressed triangle. From M5.

P3 Rim of closed mouth rounded bowl with a vertical rounded rim of hard black ware with well burnished outer surface. The internal surface is matt and grey. Fine white and black filler. The top of the rim is decorated with a series of fine transverse incisions. From T3.

P4 Massive base sherd from a large flat bottomed vessel of buff brown sandy ware with a black centre. Its surface is matt and covered with finger grooves. The base is thick and accentuated with a sharp external angle. From W5.

The other prehistoric sherds are all wall sherds and are for the most very small and very worn. They vary from dark-surfaced to red or buff-surfaced wares with matt or burnished finish. Filler is either a white stone, probably flint, or of quartz sand.

No exact parallels for these sherds can be found, although by a process of elimination one can suggest that they are not earlier than the end of the Bronze Age or later than the start of the Roman period. The simple rounded profiles suggest a connection with the Iron Age B ceramic tradition.

Roman Pottery

P5 Buff brown rim sherd with rounded out-turned rim. Filler is a fine black sand. From M4.

P6 Out-turned rim of hard cream coloured ware. From X4.

P7 Sherd of terra sigillata, probably from a bowl of Dragendorf form 15 or 46. From W3.

These few sherds are difficult to date although the presence of Samian ware would suggest activity in the area before the end of the 3rd Century A.D. There are no Roman settlements known in the immediate vicinity of the site and these finds suggest that one

remains to be discovered. Branigan (1968) discussed the meagre evidence for a Roman settlement at Chalfont St. Peter in the context of a general review of Roman settlement in the Western Chilterns.

Medieval Pottery

The Medieval sherds are mostly of a fine grey ware with a fine black sand filler and were all wall sherds with the exception of one rim.

P8 Out-turned rim of bowl with sharp internal rim angle. Grey buff ware with fine white and quartz sand filler. From N and P1.

The Medieval fragments probably came from the nearby Oakend Mill (see below).

SITE II – OAKEND (TQ 010885)

At Site II preparation for the road construction involved the excavation and removal of the extensive peat subsoil to the north of Oakend house. There is evidence here that a water-filled basin, perhaps a mill pond, existed in Medieval times.

From the extensive dumps of peat and mud a quantity of flint artifacts and flakes and Medieval sherds were recovered.

Flint

The flint industry comprised, one finished tool, a discoid scraper (fig. 19), 2 cores and 46 waste flakes. The cores were both single platform cores and the waste consisted mainly of broad flakes which show a scatter pattern similar to that on Site I (fig. 20). The blade index is 11.9%

Medieval Pottery (fig. 19)

Seventy-one medieval sherds were collected as well as a handful of more recent 18th or 19th century glazed ware sherds. Of the large collection of wall sherds 33 were of a hard matt grey ware with a fine quartz sand filler, 4 had a grey outer surface and red or red buff inner surface and 15 were of a hard matt-surfaced red or grey red ware throughout.

1. Flagon with a long curvaceous outline and flattened rim. White ware with green glaze on outer surface. Decorated with a raised 'fleur de lys' on the shoulder and a pair of thumb prints at the top of the strap handle.
2. Flagon handle of buff cream ware partially covered with a green and brown mottled glaze and perforated with irregular piercings.
3. Flagon handle of light grey, matt-surfaced ware decorated with two finger impressions on either side of the upper part of the handle and covered with fine piercings.
4. Strap handle fragment of fine red buff ware, with a central groove on the surface.
5. Base sherd of white ware decorated with thumb marks round the base and bearing flecks of green brown glaze.
6. Shallow bowl with a sagging base and flat-topped internally thickened rim. Black ware mottled with grey. Knife cut around the base.

7. Rim of shallow bowl with flattened and internally thickened profile light red ware with a grey surface.
8. Rim of jar with an out-turned rim and rounded profile of matt grey ware.
9. Rim of jar with out-turned rim and angular profile and of black surface grey ware.
10. Rim of jar with out-turned rim with a raised ledge on its upper surface, of grey and buff ware.
11. Wall sherd of vessel of grey ware with white filler, decorated with vertical comb marks and showing knife cuts around the base.
12. Wall sherd of light grey ware with horizontal grooves and light and dark mottled green glaze.

Also present are four angular sagging bases of grey ware.

All these sherds can be interpreted as rubbish from an early settlement on the site of Oakend House and suggest occupation from 12th to 15th century. The flagon no. 1 was found filled with peat and a sample of this was kindly analysed by Dr. I Strachan of the Geology Department of Birmingham University. (Appendix II p.321).

SITE III (TQ 008892)

A small scatter of waste flakes of flint were found along the line of the new road about 600 m. to the north of Site II.

SITE IV (TQ 004901)

A larger scatter of 39 flakes were found north of Site III. These again were predominantly broad flakes and only one was a blade, thus suggesting a 2.5% blade ratio (fig. 21). Three cores were recovered which included two platform cores and one single platform core.

SITE V (TQ 014880)

Here a scatter of flakes was found in the triangular field to the south of the railway and to the east of the new road construction. Thirty-six flakes were collected and, as on Site IV, only one flake belonged to the blade category, again a blade index of 2.5% (fig. 22).

The precise cultural attribution of the flint assemblages from Sites III–V is uncertain since no tools were recovered. They may be associated with encampments or sporadic flint quarrying in the gravel floor of the valley.

Acknowledgements

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Appendix I

GERRARD'S CROSS: ENVIRONMENTAL

Dr J. G. Evans

The Mesolithic and later site at Oakend, Gerrard's Cross lay in the valley of the River Misbourne close to the west edge of and raised slightly above the flood plain. Excavation showed non-calcareous fluviatile silts and clays (layers 8 and 7) laid over river gravel; these latter formed a steep bank to the north, presumably representing a former terrace. None of these deposits contained Mollusca.

The Mesolithic occupation debris which overlay layer 7 is probably more or less in situ but all the deposits above (layers 5 to 1) are of colluvial origin and have been washed down from the valley side, probably as a result of ploughing. Such deposits are known as ploughwash and on analogy with similar deposits on the Chalk may be of Bronze Age or later origin (Kerney *et al*, 1964).

The variation within the deposit at this site, represented by layers 5 to 1, is due in part to the parent material from which the ploughwash is derived, and in part to the pedological processes to which the deposit was subjected after it had been laid down. Thus layer 5, a grey calcareous loam, contained masses of rounded, calcareous granules derived from 'tufa'. Tufa is a calcareous deposit, free of clastic chalk debris and laid down by chemical precipitation in the region of springs, or over wider areas of swampy ground. Its formation probably depends on rather higher temperatures than are general in Britain today and for this reason was restricted to the period of the Climatic Optimum of the Post-Glacial. The admixture of angular flints, the patchy nature of the tufa granules, and the impoverished molluscan fauna in layer 5 makes it quite clear that in this case the tufa is not in situ but has been derived from elsewhere through the action of ploughing. A deposit of 'tufa' was recorded at this point by Howe and Skeats (1903–4); otherwise deposits of tufa are unknown from the Misbourne Valley but have been recorded from other tributaries of the R. Colne, e.g. from Hunton Bridge on the R. Gade (Kennard, 1943). The origin of the granules in layer 5 is thus satisfactorily explained.

The origin of layer 4 however is arguable. Its interpretation as an artificial floor of flint cobbles and flakes may be fairly convincing from its appearance as excavated, but such an effect can as easily be produced by worm-sorting under conditions of stability, i.e. during a period when ploughing ceased and the land lay fallow. Atkinson (1957) discusses this phenomenon. Furthermore, a layer of stones such as this would present a considerable obstcle to subsequent ploughing and it may well have been that deliberate action was taken to keep the plough immediately above such layers. Layer 3 is too pale to be an old fallow soil but may well be the remains of one ploughed up and the relative abundance of Mollusca in layers 4 and 3 supports the hypothesis of a stable phase at this level.

The difference in colour between layer 3 (grey) and layer 2 (brown) is further evidence that the former is a ploughed up soil, the grey colour being due to humic material; this contrasts with the less humic, brown colour of layer 2, caused by iron compounds not being masked by humus, and a characteristic feature of ploughwash deposits. The line of chalk fragments at the surface of layer 2 may be due to one of several factors such as artificial liming; or the extension of ploughing onto more chalky areas of the valley side and the subsequent downwashing of chalk; or to worm-sorting during a fallow stage; or to a combination of these.

The molluscan faunas (see Table 1) from the several layers (5 to 2) add little to the environmental interpretation of this site. They certainly give no clue to the age of the deposits. In all but layer 2 fresh-water species are present and these from a variety of habitats. Thus *Valvata piscinalis, Sphaerium* sp. (not *S. lacustre*), *Pisidium* cf. *henslowanum* and *Pisidium* cf. *nitidum* are characteristic of rather open water. *Planorbis leucostoma* and *Pisidium* cf. *casertanum* of ditch habitats subjected to seasonal drying. The dry land species, too comprise open-country species such as *Vertigo pygmaea, Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia* spp. and *Helicella itala* together with others more consistent with a shaded environment. The point seems clear that we are dealing with deposits which have been derived from a fairly wide area and originally of both fresh-water and terrestrial origin. The archaeological implications of this are the artifacts deriving from the period prior to ploughwash formation will not be in situ and, even in their derived state, not necessarily in their original chronological position relative to others above and below. Only those artifacts dating from the period of ploughing will be primarily stratified.

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Layer . . .	5	4	3	2
Valvata piscinalis (Müller)	–	–	1	–
Planorbis leucostoma (Millet)	–	1	9	–
Azeca goodalli (Ferussac)	–	–	1	–
Cochlicopa sp.	–	–	–	1
Vertigo pygmaea (Draparnaud)	*1*	–	–	–
Pupilla muscorum (Linné))	1	+	1	–
Vallonia costata (Müller)	1	1	2	2
Vallonia pulchella (Müller)	1 + 1	–	–	–
Vallonia excentrica (Sterki)	–	1 + [2]	[4]	[8]
Clausilia bidentata (Ström)	–	–	1	–
Cecilioides acicula (Müller)	–	–	6	1
Arianta arbustorum (Linné)	–	–	1	–
Helix nemoralis (Linné)	–	+	–	–
Helix (*Cepaea*) spp.	–	8	2	–
Hygromia hispida (Linné)	2	2	9	–
Helicella itala (Linné)	1	–	2	–
Punctum pygmaeum (Draparnaud)	–	–	1	–
Discus rotundatus (Müller)	–	+	2	–
Oxychilus cellarius (Müller)	1	–	–	–
Retinella radiatula (Alder)	–	–	+	–
Retinella nitidula (Draparnaud)	–	4	2	–
Limacidae	–	2	2	1
Sphaerium sp.	–	–	1	–
Pisidium cf. *casertanum* (Poli)	–	1	–	–
Pisidium cf. herslowanum (Sheppard)	2	–	–	–
Pisidium cf. nitidum (Jenyns)	–	–	1	–

Table 1. Gerrard's Cross, molluscan fauna; weight of each sample c. 2.0 kg.; [] = juveniles, identification uncertain.

Appendix II

Report on pollen analysis of peat from Medieval pot, Gerrard's Cross.

The only definite tree present is alder, its pollen forming about 10% of that present. A few coryloid grains may suggest the presence of hazel and a few reticulate grains may be willow but these were not definitely identified. The most abundant forms are fern spores which account for 30% of the total. Grasses, sedges and Umbelliferae each account for about 10%. The different species of Umbelliferae (parsley family, including cow-parsnip, sweet cicely, chervils, etc.) have not been identified since their pollen is all very similar. The Compositae have also not been closely identified for the same reason but only divided into Tubuliflorae (daisy, mayweeds, etc.) which form 10% and Liguliflorae (dandelion, hawkweeds, etc.) which form 5% of the total.

The remaining 15% consists of forms found in very small numbers and includes buttercup, dock and sphagnum. The last is of some interest as being out of context with the rest. The overall picture is that of a dampish area (alder trees) with the usual rough-ground flora (grasses, sedges, umbels, composites) to be found on neighbouring banks with abundant ferns in the shadier parts. The sphagnum, which suggests acid bogs, is not to be expected.

None of the grass pollen was large enough to suggest cereal grains.

I. Strachan.

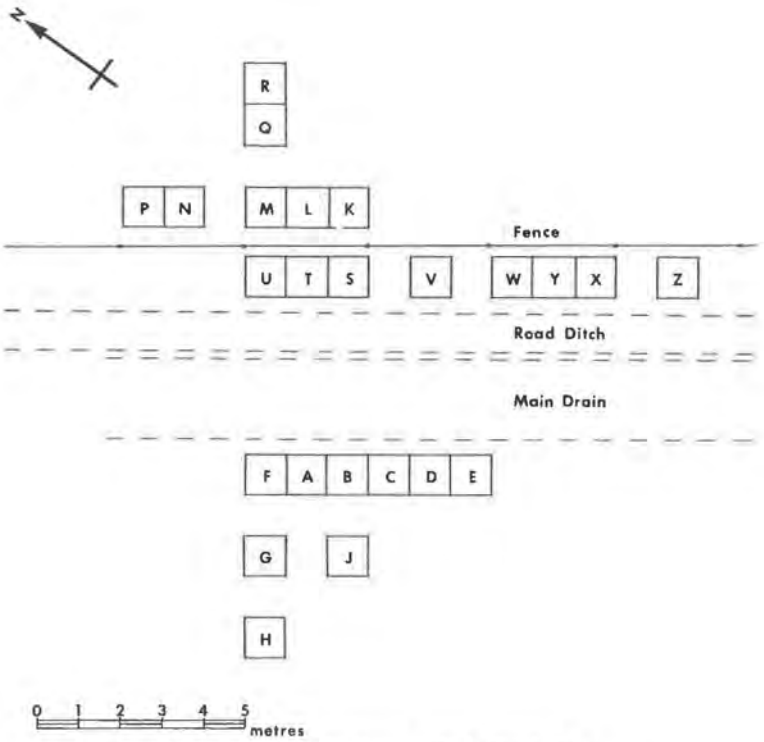

Fig. 3. Gerrards Cross Site I. Grid Plan.

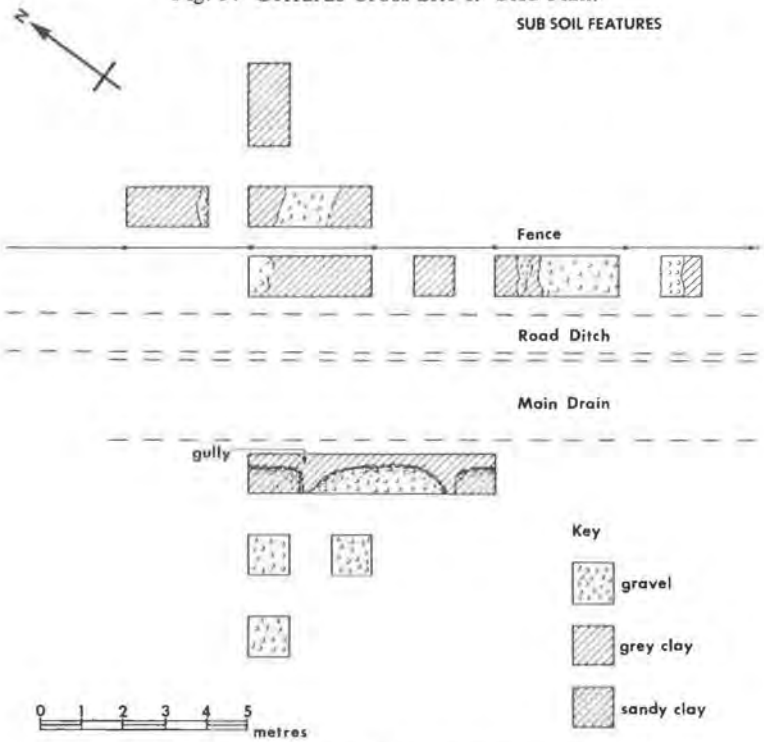

Fig. 4. Site 1. Sub-soil features.

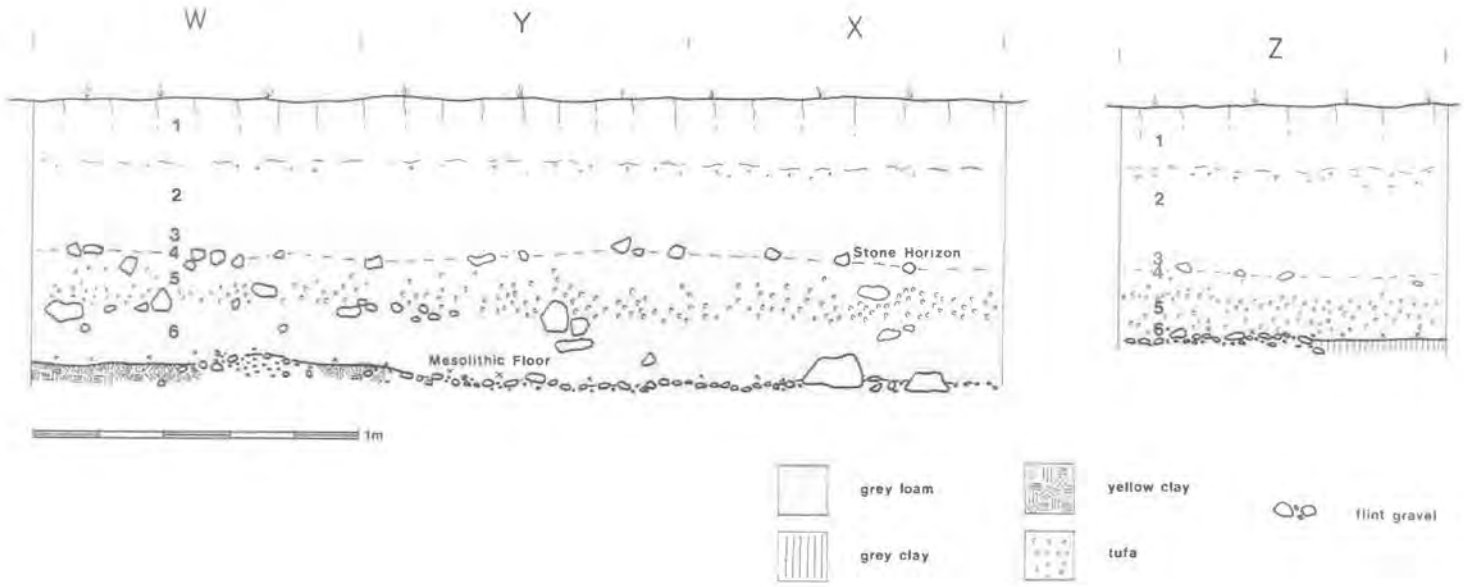

Fig. 5. Site I. Section along the east side of squares X, W, Y and Z

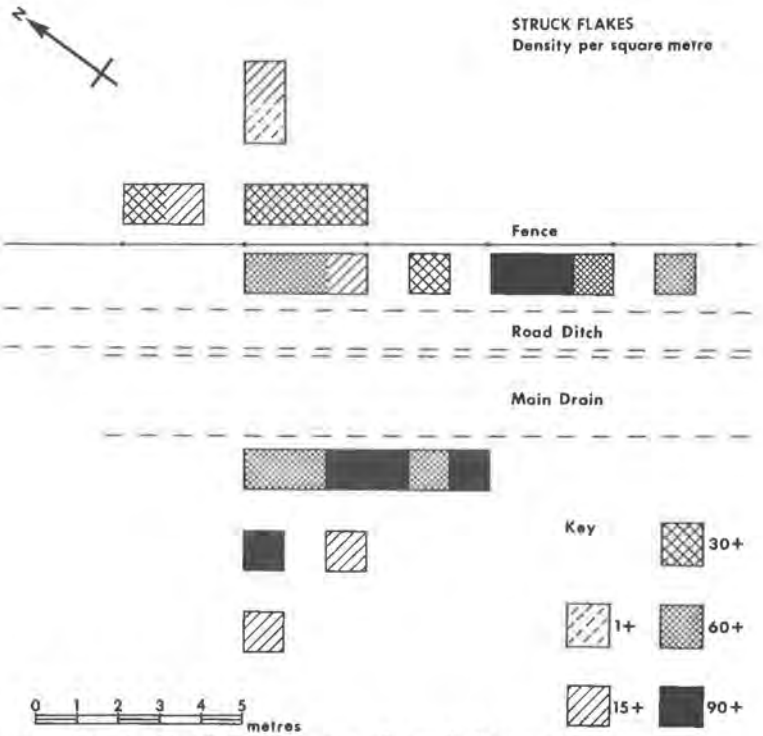

Fig. 6. Site 1. Distribution of struck flakes per square metre.

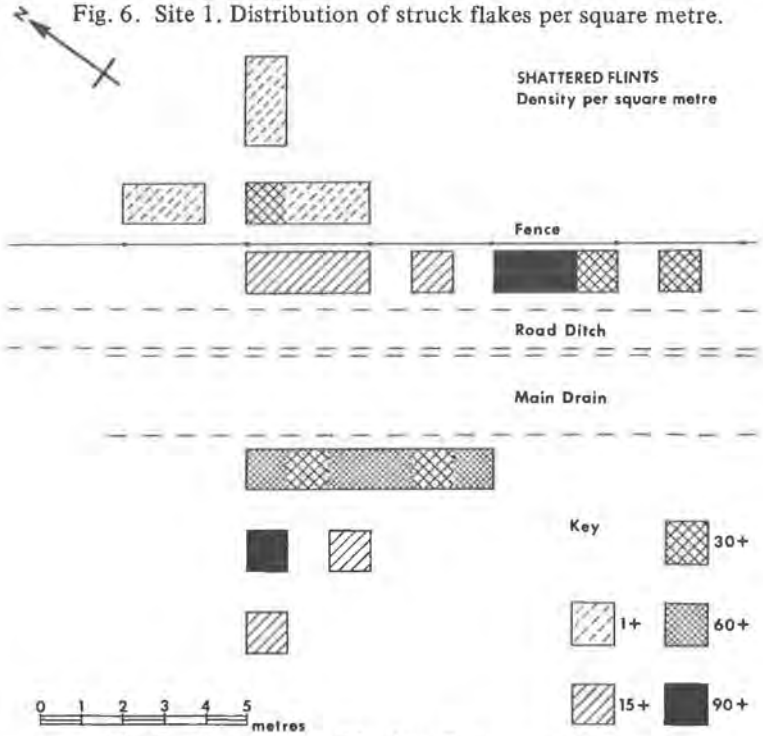

Fig. 7. Distribution of broken flints per square metre.

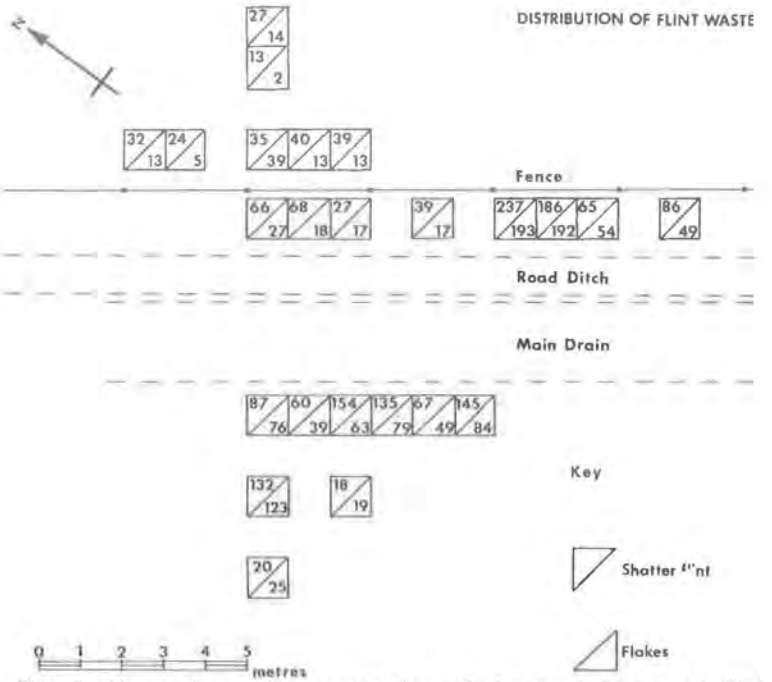

Fig. 8. Site 1. Comparison of concentration of shattered flints and flint flakes per square metre.

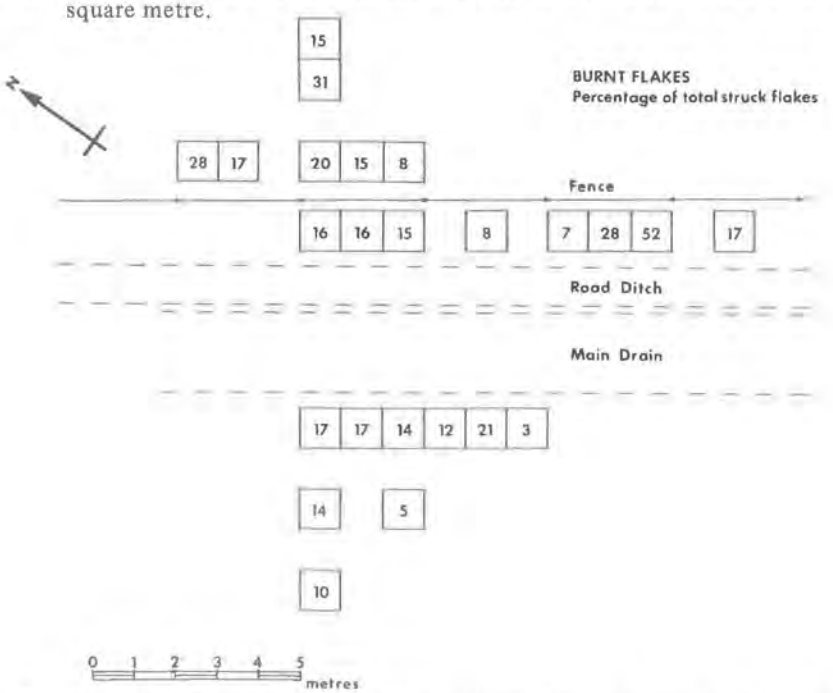

Fig. 9. Site 1. Distribution of burnt flints, expressed as a percentage of the total number of struck flakes.

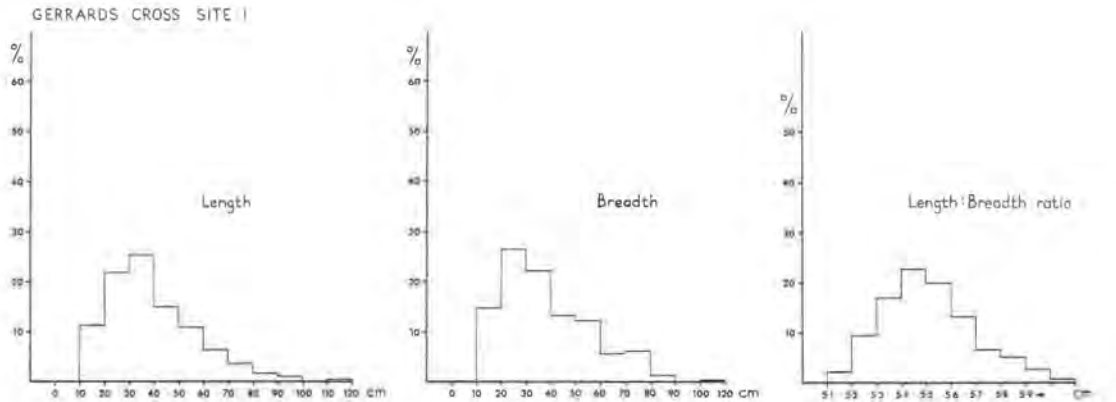

Fig. 10. Site 1. Length and breadth histograms of waste flakes and blades, based on a sample of 600 pieces.

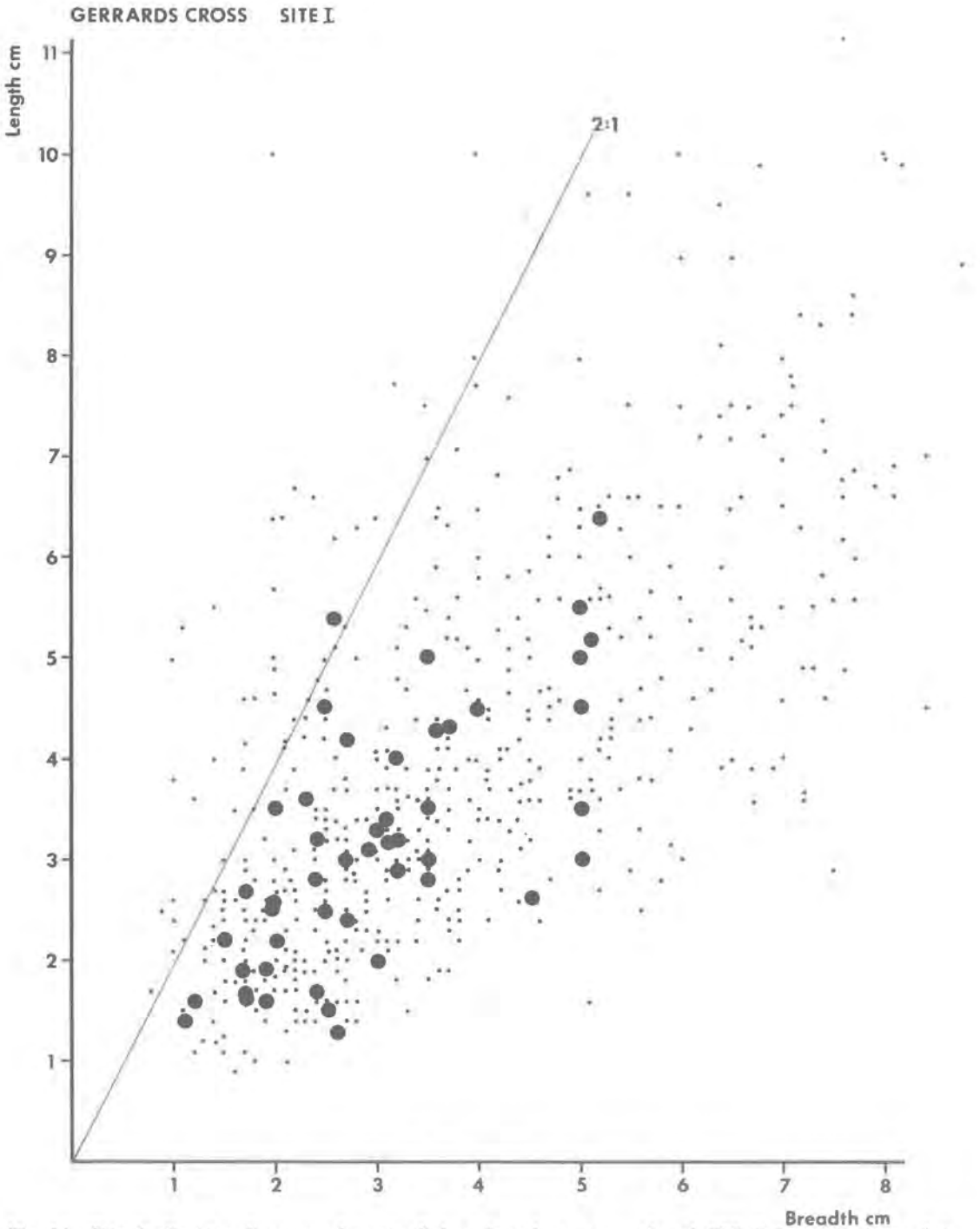

Fig. 11. Site 1. Scatter diagram of waste flakes, based on a sample of 600 flakes. The large dots indicate two flakes with the same measurements.

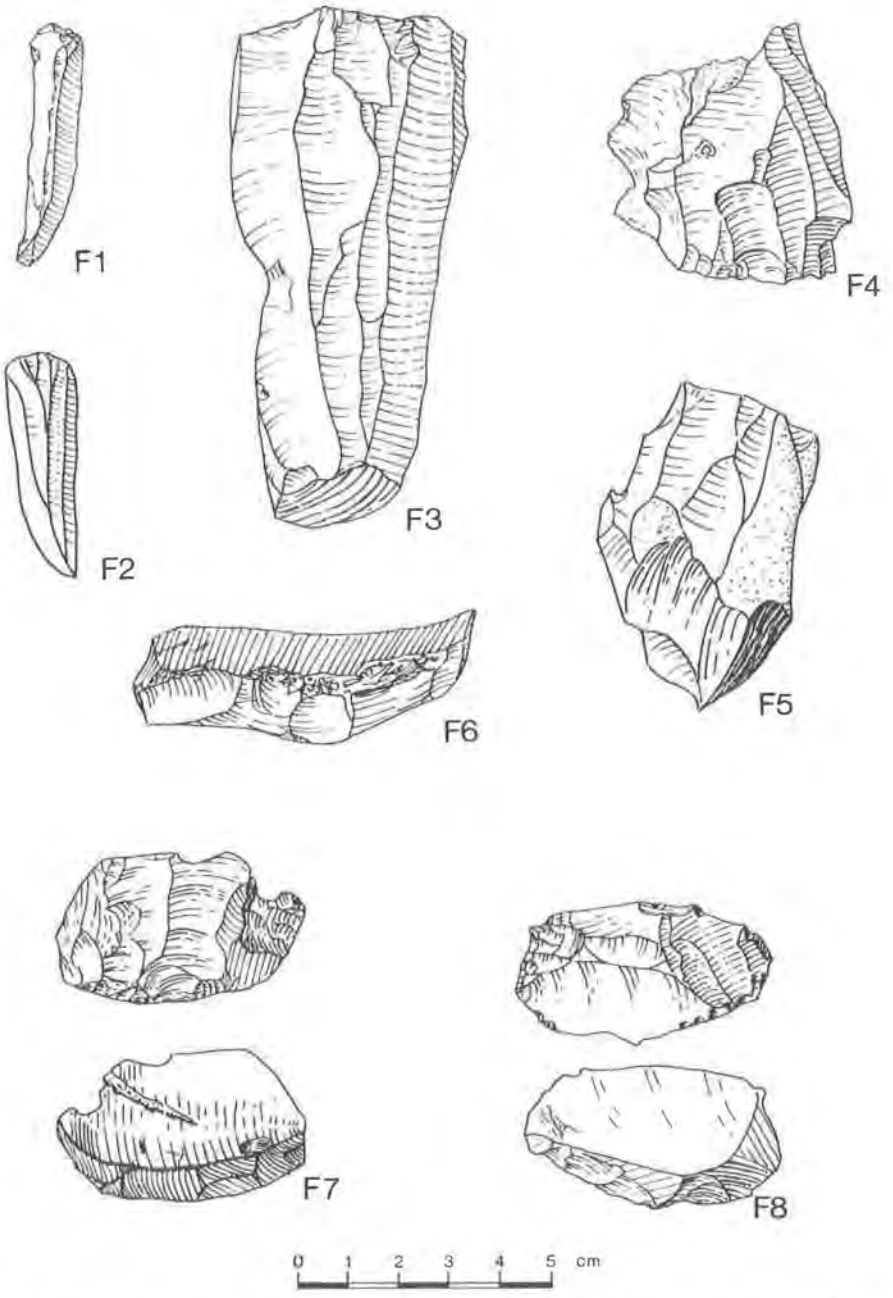

Fig. 12. Site 1. Flint artifacts, axe sharpening flakes F9 – F10, microliths F11 – F13, retouched blade F14, burin F15, awls F16 – F17, scrapers F18 – F20.

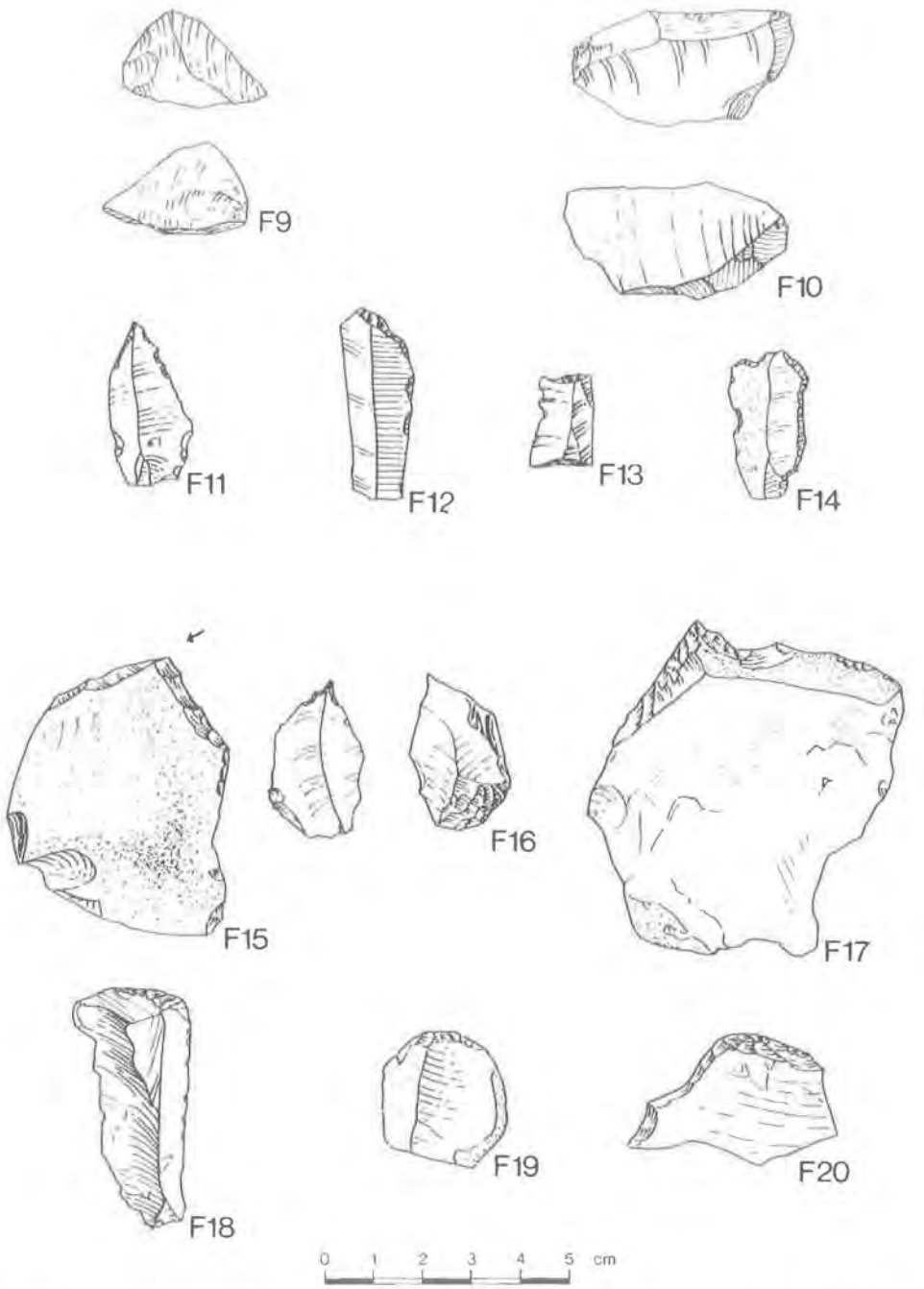

Fig. 13. Site 1. Flint artifacts, axe sharpening flakes F9 – F10, microliths F 11– F13, retouched blade F14, burin F15, awls F16 – F17, scrapers F18 – F20.

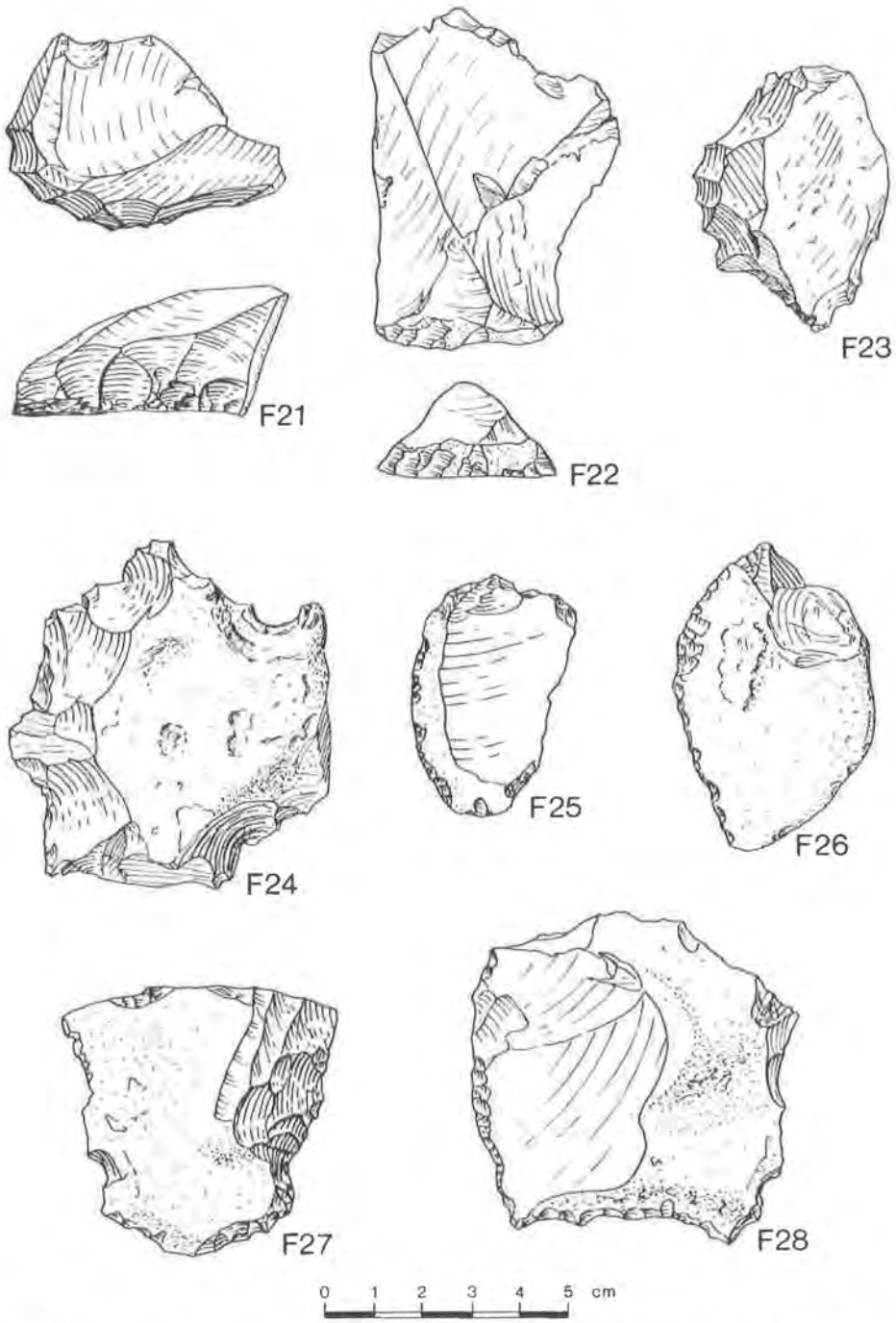

Fig. 14. Site 1. Flint artifacts, scrapers F21 – F24, flakes with marginal retouch F25 – F28.

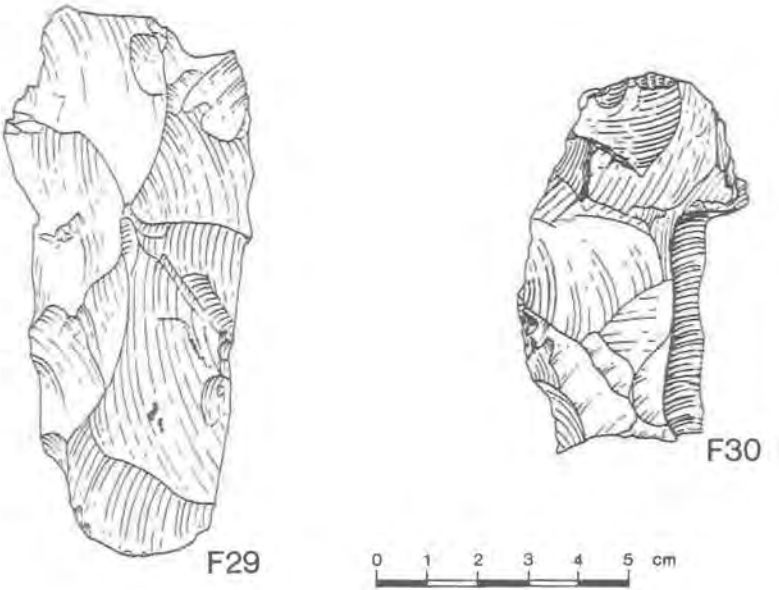

Fig. 15. Flint axes roughouts F29 – F30.

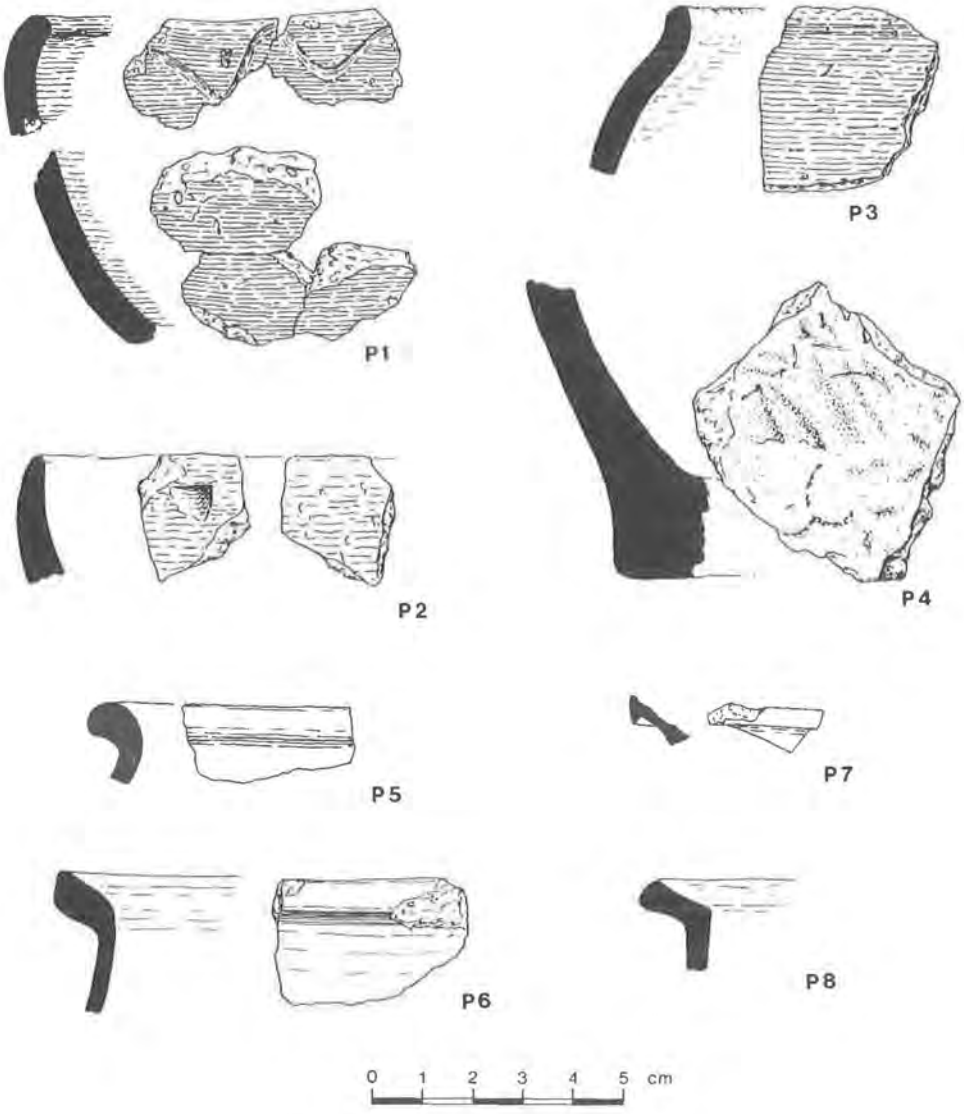

Fig. 16. Site 1. Prehistoric, P1 – P4, Roman P5 – P6, and Medieval, P8, pottery.

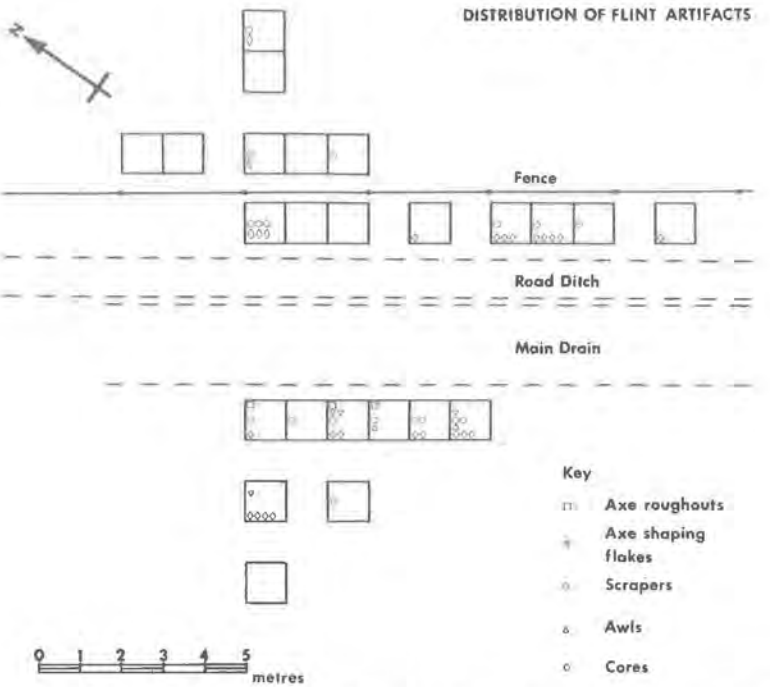

Fig. 17. Site 1. Distribution of main artifact types axes, scraper, cores.

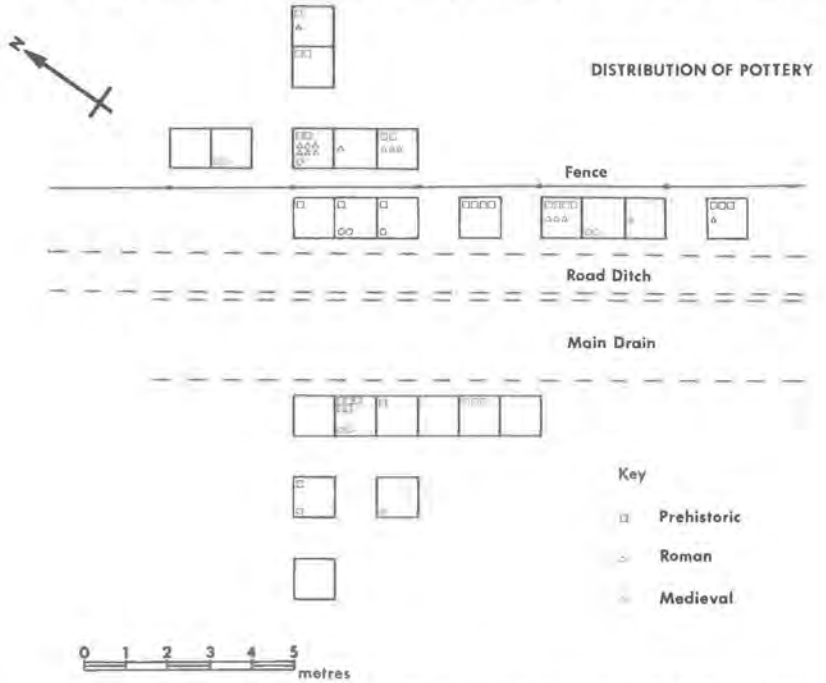

Fig. 18. Site 1. Distribution of Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval pottery.

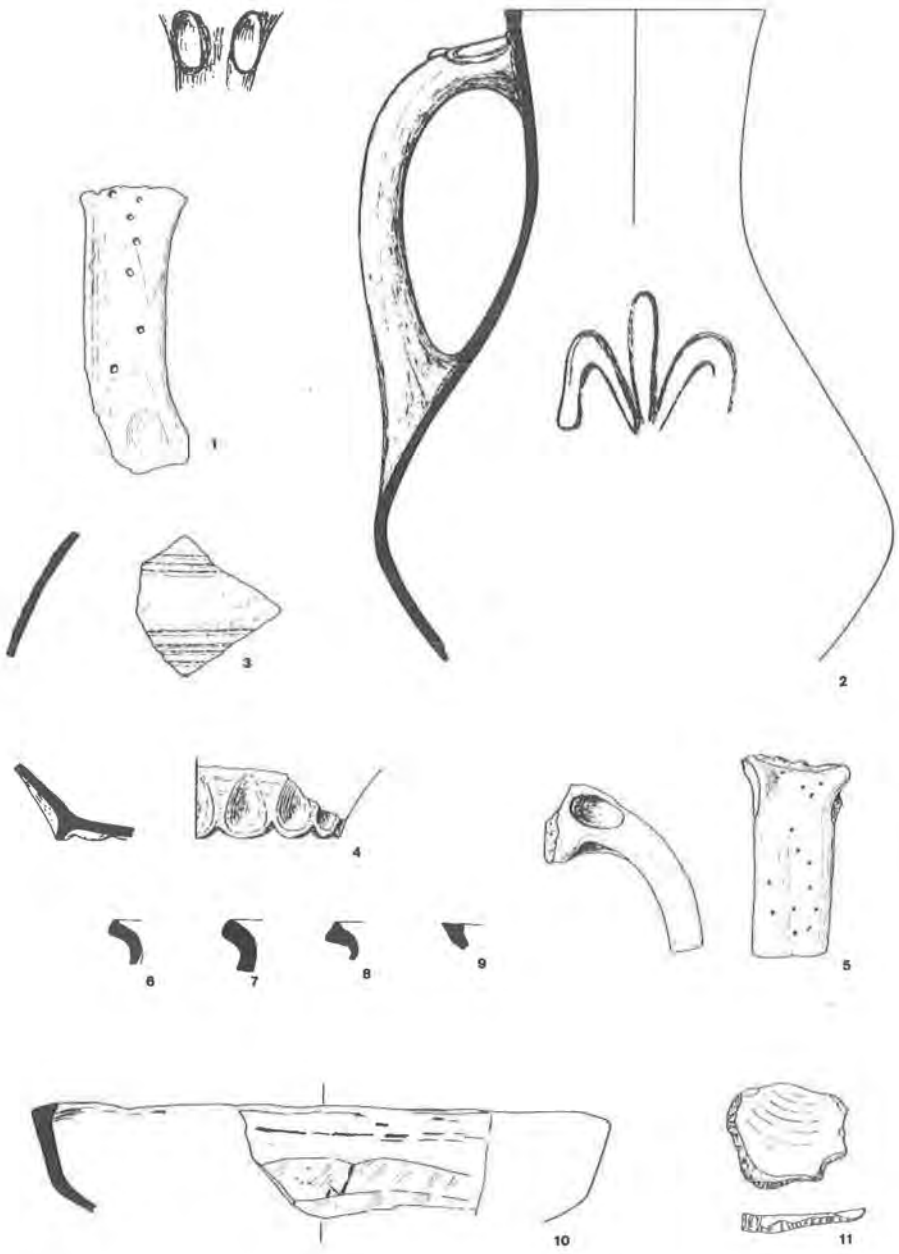

Fig. 19. Site II. Medieval Pottery and flint scraper.

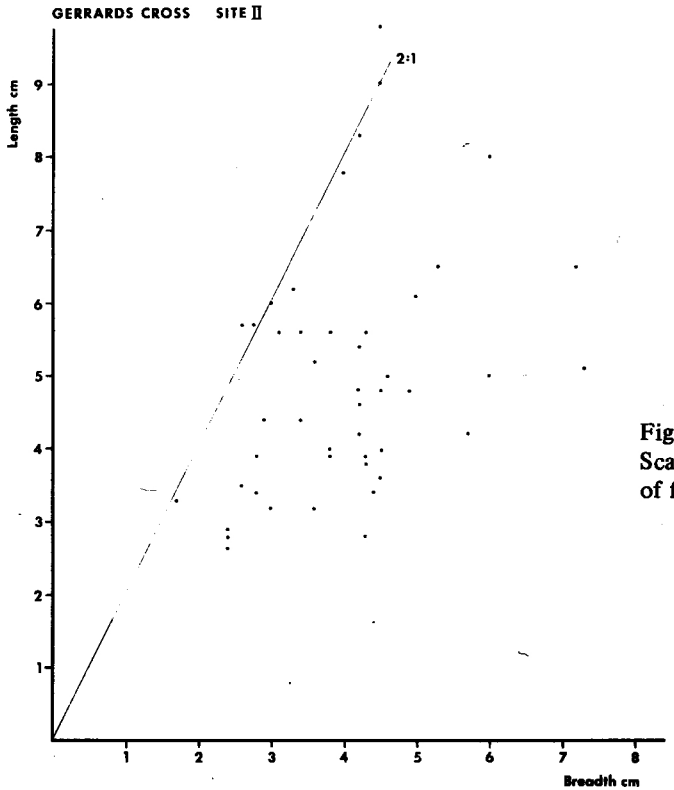

Fig. 20. Site II. Scatter diagram of flint flakes.

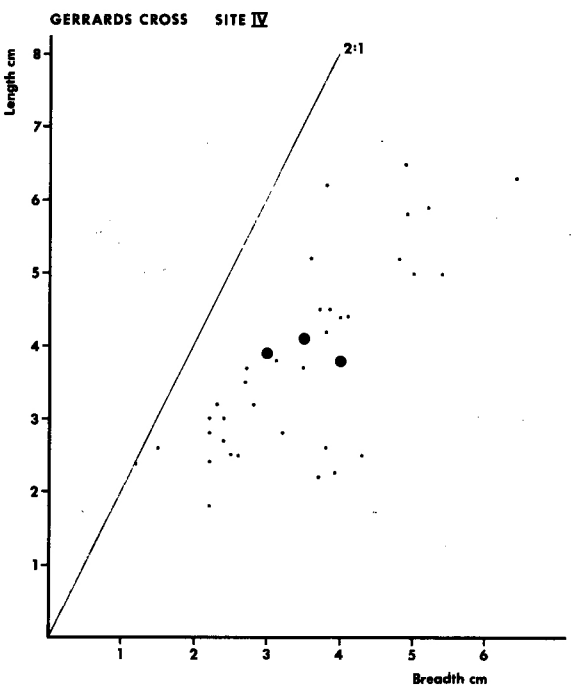

Fig. 21. Site IV. Scatter diagram of waste flakes.

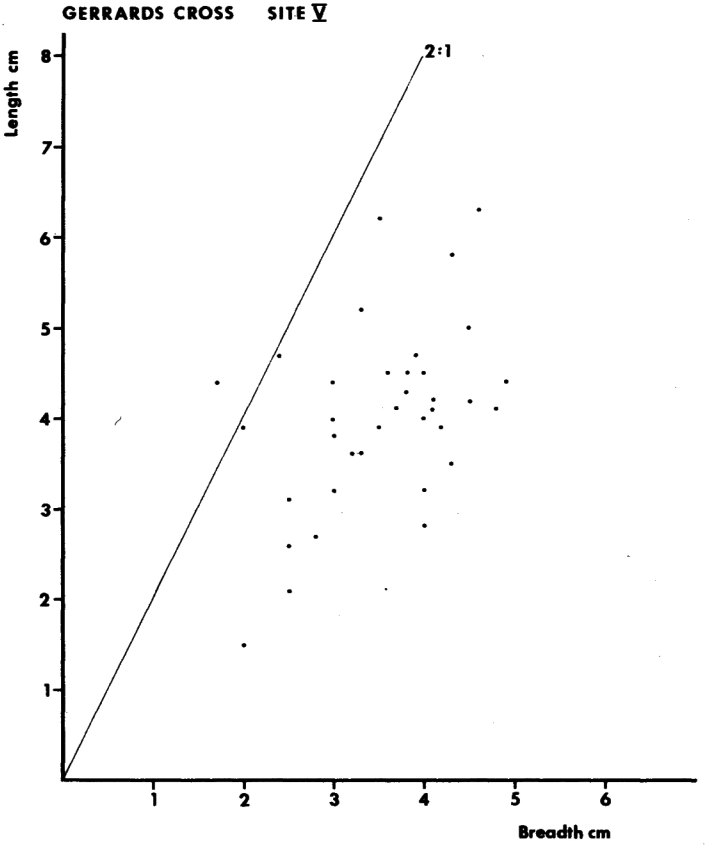

Fig. 22. Site V. Scatter diagram of waste flakes